

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Teams begin weighing in for the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge** *Gov. Brownback, Lt. Gov. Colyer and teams validate their weights*

**TOPEKA** – The weight loss teams of Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D., stepped up to the scales today during a press conference at the Statehouse to have their initial weights validated before the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge starts.

Challenge participants can begin weighing in today, with the initial weigh-in period closing Jan. 15. The competition is scheduled to run until May 15.

"I am encouraged so many Kansans have accepted my challenge to confront the obesity epidemic and live healthier lives," Gov. Brownback said. "At this time we already have about 350 teams signed up, and I look forward to announcing the winning teams in May."

Governor Sam Brownback announced in November his challenge to State of Kansas (SOK) employees and other interested groups to form teams of five, to start eating healthier and to become more active in an effort to lose a greater percentage of weight than the Governor's team of five.

Gov. Brownback's team includes Transportation Sec. Mike King, Acting Labor Sec. Lana Gordon, Commerce Sec. Pat George and Kansas Adjutant General Lee Tafanelli. Lt. Gov. Colyer's team includes Aging and Disability Services Secretary Shawn Sullivan; KDHE Division of Health Care Finance Director Kari Bruffett; Budget Director Steve Anderson and Governor's Chief of Staff Landon Fulmer.

The Challenge will award monetary prizes to teams comprised of people employed by the State of Kansas, including those in the Kansas Legislative and Judicial branches. Additionally, the Governor invites non-state employee groups like businesses and municipalities to accept his weight loss challenge by recruiting their own teams and providing incentives for a team competition to run concurrent with the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge.

The official contest rules, weigh-in form, and the tracking system are available at [www.weightloss.ks.gov](http://www.weightloss.ks.gov). Upon the initial validated weigh-in, weight is entered into the system privately by the individual and is combined with the team's weight to be tracked collectively.

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